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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

To:

Honorable Commissioner for Patents

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

E V 3 6 9 7 6 4 1 4 2

From:

Emmanuel A. Rivera (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)

Customer No. 22801

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO DECEMBER 2, 2003 OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office action of **December 2, 2003**, the response is provided as follows:

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

The listing of the claims begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 48 of this paper.

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